



Renovating Men's and Boys' Clothing.

MEN'S SUITS often become faded and shabby looking before they are badly worn, and it becomes necessary to renovate and freshen them if they are to look presentable for either Sunday or office wear. The woman who is truly economical seeks not only to make a garment last longer, but to preserve its creditable appearance as well, and often a little work will make it look like new.

A coat, vest or pair of pants that is to be cleaned must be well brushed and dusted first. If there is a tear that needs mending, set the patch neatly, taking care to match the twill or check, and sew it down so as to make it as nearly invisible as possible. Rip out the lining of the coat. Iron the pieces smooth and use them for a pattern for a new lining, which may be cut from a good quality of farmer's satin. Remove the buttons, and if the edges are bound with braid that has become frayed and ragged, that should be taken off also. If the collar is badly soiled, lay it on the table, and scrub with a small brush dipped in strong suds made of soft water, soap and a little ammonia. When it is clean, rinse with clear water. Let out the hem of the sleeves and the trousers, and wash each piece in hot soapsuds until clean; then rinse through clear hot water, and while still wet, put them in a solution of Diamond Dyes of any color preferred. If there are any small pieces, fasten them together, and they will be easier to handle. The dyeing is an easy matter despite the prevailing belief to the contrary, and is a work that commends itself to the practical housewife.

The cloth of which men's suits are made is often a mixture of cotton and wool, and it is necessary to use the dye for cotton in coloring such goods. Navy Blue, Seal Brown and Black are suitable for men's clothing, and Diamond Dyes in all of these colors have been found absolutely unfading in the severest tests. They are by far the best package dyes in the market as to color, durability and the ease with which they are used. Any plain goods can be re-dyed the color it was originally, or the color may be changed to a darker one. Many pieces of mixed goods are so skilfully made that it is difficult to tell by their appearance that they are not all wool. Take out a few threads of the chain and filling, and hold them one by one over the flame of a lighted lamp. Cotton burns readily, and when lighted usually burns the entire thread before it goes out. A thread of wool burns slowly, and gives forth a peculiar odor which is easily detected. A few trials will teach any one how to apply the test.

Be sure the vessel that is used for dyeing is large enough to hold the material without crowding. Either granite or tin kettles or pans may be used, for there is nothing about these dyes to injure the vessel, and after the work is done it can be scoured and will be as good as it was before. Follow the directions on the package in the smallest details, and the result will always prove satisfactory.

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